



How to use the 1930 Federal Census

at the California State Library

California History Room

Step 1

Obtain a street address, including city and county. Sources might include:

- ◆ Your family records.
- ◆ City directories. Ask at the Information Desk for our list of directories on microfilm. Bound directories are shelved in the Reading Room.
- ◆ Telephone directories. Check our computerized index to phone directories on microfilm, or request paper copies to be paged from the closed stacks.
- ◆ The 1920 Census, if you are fairly sure the family did not move before 1930.

Step 2

Find a map of the area. **Note:** This step may be postponed until you have determined which enumeration district tool you will be using (Step 3).

- ◆ Contemporary (1928-1932) maps are best, especially in more rural areas. Check our map card index for the area you need.
- ◆ A modern map may work for urban areas. You can use our public Internet computers to print a map from a web site such as MapQuest.

Step 3

Determine the enumeration district (ED). Several tools are available:

- ◆ If the city is listed below, use the ***Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts*** (NARA microfilm M1931). These reels are filed at the beginning of the 1930 census. Look up the street name and then the street number. A map (from Step 2) is not required with this tool.

▪ Berkeley	▪ Los Angeles	▪ San Diego
▪ Long Beach	county cities	▪ San Francisco
- ◆ If the city is listed below, use the **One-Step ED Locator**. This easy-to-use web site is bookmarked on our public Internet computers: <http://stevemorse.org/census/index.html>. Enter the street name, followed by the nearest cross streets. You are likely to need a map from Step 2 in order to identify the cross streets

▪ Alameda	▪ Long Beach	▪ San Francisco
▪ Alhambra	▪ Oakland	▪ San Jose
▪ Bakersfield	▪ Pasadena	▪ Santa Ana
▪ Berkeley	▪ Riverside	▪ Santa Barbara
▪ Fresno	▪ Sacramento	▪ Santa Monica
▪ Glendale	▪ San Bernardino	▪ Stockton
▪ Los Angeles (city)	▪ San Diego	

(Over—more tools on the back)

Step 3 (continued)

Determine the enumeration district (continued).

- ◆ If the city is not included in either of the previous tools, use the **NARA 1930 Census Microfilm Locator** at <http://1930census.archives.gov/beginSearch.asp>. This web site is also bookmarked on our public Internet computers. This tool lists only ED boundaries (instead of all the streets in the ED), so you will probably need a map from Step 2, unless the city was quite small.
- ◆ Another tool is *Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts* (NARA microfilm T1224). These reels are filed before the 1850 census because we have them for several census years. Be sure to pull the reels for 1930. Like the web site above, this tool lists only ED boundaries, so you are likely to need a map from Step 2.
- ◆ You can also use the *Enumeration District Maps for the Fifteenth Census of the United States* (NARA microfilm M1930). These reels are filed at the beginning of the 1930 Census. The maps vary in quality and readability, so you may need a map from Step 2 to help you find the address.

Step 4

Determine the correct census reel.

- ◆ If you have used either of the web resources to determine the ED, you already have the reel number.
- ◆ If you used any of the microfilm tools, consult the *1930 Federal Population Census Catalog of NARA Microfilm* on top of the census cabinets or at the Information Desk.

Step 5

Locate the family on the reel.

- ◆ Find the city.
- ◆ Find the ED.
- ◆ Find the street.
- ◆ Scan for the house number or surname.

If you have questions about any of these steps or resources, please ask at the Information Desk. Good luck with your research!